

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION



Information Letter



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Tomato Products Imports Break All Records

That Italian canned tomatoes are being rushed to the American market in anticipation of tariff legislation placing a higher duty on this product is indicated by the record-breaking imports for October, when over 43,800,000 pounds of canned tomatoes were imported, bringing the total receipts for the current year to over 132,500,000 pounds. Tomato paste imports for the first ten months of the year are over 2,000,000 pounds in excess of the imports for the corresponding period of 1928.

The imports of canned tomatoes and tomato paste, by months, in 1928 and 1929 have been as follows:

	Canned Tomatoes		Tomato Paste	
	Pounds	Value	Pounds	Value
1928				
January	12,950,694	\$666,465	2,316,396	\$219,090
February	7,909,499	446,299	593,266	56,366
March	4,849,189	243,036	394,272	42,162
April	4,176,502	365,642	455,923	43,661
May	4,490,332	356,987	559,099	59,491
June	5,273,616	194,179	459,467	46,846
July	3,708,709	169,992	273,561	26,023
August	710,144	50,790	323,255	36,973
September	3,820,110	292,421	650,254	69,773
October	19,821,990	1,046,273	789,023	76,975
Total	69,812,171	3,549,227	6,908,936	699,593
1929				
January	11,584,655	661,913	836,669	117,092
February	10,070,974	605,850	821,929	116,933
March	8,932,126	323,126	775,996	112,961
April	7,314,409	448,306	669,977	106,149
May	10,092,992	379,635	431,626	57,793
June	9,567,189	367,610	649,921	66,989
July	5,107,339	293,489	316,569	32,789
August	1,461,199	73,086	442,566	49,024
September	24,914,499	1,269,855	1,249,243	141,166
October	42,832,616	2,080,052	2,319,669	289,961
Total	132,567,509	7,074,641	8,947,711	1,189,639

Hearing Announced in Metal Container Rate Case

The hearing in the proceeding involving the rates, ratings and carload minimum weights applicable to sheet-metal containers in interstate transportation (Docket 22426) has been set by the Interstate Commerce Commission for February 3, 1930, at the Sherman Hotel, Chicago, before Examiners Copenhafer and Smith. Unless otherwise ordered the parties offering evidence will be heard in the following order: Respondent; parties who have filed complaints; producers, shippers, consumers and others; chambers of commerce, commercial organizations and traffic associations; carriers' reply to other parties.

Canned Food Exports in October

During the month of October exports of canned meats, vegetables, condensed milk and sardines were greater than in the corresponding month of last year, while those of evaporated milk, fruit and salmon were smaller. The following table, compiled from records of the Department of Commerce, shows the quantity and value of the principal articles exported:

Articles	October, 1929		October, 1928	
	Pounds	Value	Pounds	Value
Canned meats, total	925,953	\$327,717	1,823,653	\$641,332
Beef	90,945	38,206	226,142	85,464
Pork	472,386	175,490	1,212,346	429,782
Sausage	156,189	55,067	245,634	95,679
Other	204,613	64,614	139,881	81,107
Canned vegetables, total	9,885,342	931,468	11,427,808	1,078,577
Asparagus	1,864,485	286,951	2,016,824	518,566
Baked beans, and pork and beans	1,025,876	106,922	981,245	66,568
Corn	1,796,925	121,779	2,143,039	147,065
Peas	673,292	60,708	1,020,276	89,823
Soups	2,327,850	248,121	3,294,514	214,546
Tomatoes	331,451	88,638	706,107	80,997
Other	1,415,483	81,289	1,378,193	86,981
Condensed milk	2,531,087	426,461	4,618,962	640,185
Evaporated milk	5,263,755	626,260	5,179,206	562,584
Canned fruits, total	48,171,446	4,111,231	39,524,944	4,804,613
Apples and applesauce	3,974,677	315,550	2,928,756	160,834
Apricots	3,640,378	353,066	3,518,402	234,149
Berries	737,699	78,527	846,594	99,890
Cherries	885,285	58,007	814,943	34,889
Fruits for salad			3,616,874	59,212
Peaches	12,780,702	1,049,659	10,454,086	1,094,485
Pears	17,601,321	1,805,487	9,877,770	1,150,713
Pineapple	4,846,836	448,554	8,915,694	665,920
Prunes	894,353	46,413	323,562	31,054
Other	1,438,193	165,548	928,937	102,287
Salmon	5,855,046	1,023,493	4,991,907	907,961
Sardines	9,236,938	783,455	13,659,028	1,024,476

Tomato and Pea Acreage in Mexico and the Bahamas

A considerable reduction in the tomato acreage of the Mexican West Coast and of the Bahamas is indicated for the 1929-30 season, according to reports received by the U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics from American consuls at Mazatlan, Guaymas and Nassau. The reduction in acreage is being attrib-

uted by the consuls largely to the proposed increase of the tariff on tomatoes imported into the United States.

In Sinaloa, the most important growing area in Mexico, the growers will reduce seed bed plantings by 45 per cent. Land formerly in tomatoes will be planted in cotton. In the Yaqui valley of Sonora the tomato acreage will be reduced one-half.

The acreage planted in tomatoes in the Bahamas this season is less than half the acreage of the past two seasons, according to the American consul at Nassau. This is partly due to unsatisfactory returns in the New York market during 1927-28 and 1928-29 and partly to the proposed increase in the American tariff on imported tomatoes. The entire winter tomato crop has thus far been shipped to the New York market. Such shipments in the 1928-29 season amounted to 6,287,000 pounds as compared with 8,437,000 pounds in 1927-28.

The acreage to be devoted to peas in the Yaqui river valley of Sonora, Mexico, during 1929-30 will be increased to approximately 14,000 acres as compared with 7,500 acres in 1928-29, according to a report from the consul at Guaymas. In addition, there will be the 4,000 acres planted in the Mayo river valley, which will make the total area in peas this season amount to approximately 18,000 acres as compared with about 11,000 acres in 1928-29.

Cuban Winter Vegetable Acreage Maintained

Farmers in Cuba have not curtailed their plantings of winter vegetables in anticipation of the passing of a higher tariff by the United States, according to the American consul general at Havana. Such reductions in plantings as may have occurred have been brought about by the inability of farmers to obtain credit.

Truck Crop Markets

Carlot movement of 26 fruits and vegetables was down to the moderate volume of 14,820 cars for the week ended November 23, according to the U. S. Market News Service. Potatoes totaled 3,650, apples 2,650, sweet potatoes 920, celery 825, lettuce 770, and cabbage 625 cars. Purchase of supplies for the Thanksgiving season helped to stimulate the market, and colder weather added snap to trading at many points.

California grape shipments decreased very sharply to 740 cars for the week, compared with 1,320 during the same period last season. Grapefruit forwardings increased to 630 cars.

Florida was more active with 425 cars of grapefruit, and southern Texas shipped 185, as against 70 a year ago.

Holiday trade probably attracted a larger movement of oranges, though the 1,365 cars shipped during the seven-day period were still about one-third lighter than the corresponding movement of last season. Florida increased to 665, Alabama shipped 70, and California forwarded 600 cars of oranges. Lifting the fruit-fly quarantine in Florida will help the situation there.

Imports of tomatoes have started from Mexico, but the plantings there and in the Bahamas are reduced to about half of their last year's total. This will mean lighter competition for Florida stock. Shipments last week decreased to 190 cars, chiefly from California and southern Texas.

Cabbage shipments decreased slightly to 625 cars, of which New York furnished 300 and Wisconsin 200. Fairly heavy movement of second-crop cabbage was reported from South Carolina and light shipments of new stock from Texas.

Shipments of sweet potatoes increased nearly 50 per cent to a total of 920 cars for the week, with Virginia starting 260 cars. Output of Maryland and Tennessee increased greatly.

Total shipments of apples decreased further to 2,650 cars, as against 3,450 during the same week in 1928. About two cars moved from the West to every car from the East. Washington originated 1,285, the Virginias 390, and New York 225 cars. Apples were beginning to move from cold-storage in western New York.

CARLOT SHIPMENTS

Commodity	Nov. 17-23 1929	Nov. 10-16 1929	Nov. 18-24 1928	Total this season to Nov. 23	Total last season to Nov. 24	Total last season
Apples, total	3,647	3,294	3,432	55,166	66,913	127,500
Eastern states	993	1,199	1,465	36,079	47,388	62,709
Western states	1,744	2,095	2,647	32,027	43,647	64,822
Cabbage:						
1929 season	2	2	7	4	9	35,237
1928 season	622	699	732	36,237	32,199	38,639
Carrots:						
1929 season	161	166	186	796	784	10,631
1928 season	43	63	65	10,631	6,583	7,433
Cauliflower	143	110	282	2,346	2,586	9,869
Green peas:						
1929 season	65	42	62	135	166	5,153
1928 season	3	4	9	3,123	4,669	4,669
Mixed vegetables	417	325	361	29,737	30,813	33,584
Pears	126	156	129	19,372	25,342	24,439
Spinach:						
1929 season	262	66	243	292	871	10,169
1928 season	31	48	56	10,169	10,489	10,594
String beans:						
1929 season	60	31	66	186	128	6,497
1928 season	3	30	20	6,497	6,970	6,707
Tomatoes:						
Domestic	189	923	189	31,415	30,380	30,394
Imports	10	8	21	14	28	3,971

Wholesale and Retail Trade in October

Wholesale distribution increased during October by somewhat more than is usual at this season, according to reports made to the Federal Reserve System from firms in eight lines of trade. The largest increases over the previous month were in the sales of furniture, groceries, and drugs, while decreases were reported by distributors of dry goods, men's clothing, and boots and shoes.

Changes in sales and stocks of wholesale grocers, by districts, are shown in the following table, decreases being indicated by a minus sign:

Districts	Sales: October, 1929 compared with—		Stocks: October, 1929 compared with—	
	September, 1929	October, 1928	September, 1929	October, 1928
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
United States	8.9	1.9	9.9	- 8.9
Boston	8.7	1.4
New York	15.2	2.0	18.4	6.4
Philadelphia	11.1	- 1.4	8.3	1.8
Cleveland	12.6	6.4	9.2	- 0.5
Richmond	10.1	- 0.2	12.8	10.0
Atlanta	1.5	- 3.2	14.3	4.6
Chicago	3.7	- 0.0	9.6	- 6.4
St. Louis	8.8	- 3.8	9.9	0.7
Minneapolis	3.0	5.0	5.0	- 4.0
Kansas City	8.2	-10.0	1.0	-19.9
Dallas	0.3	- 3.2	7.5	- 1.9
San Francisco	19.1	10.8	19.2	2.5

Department store sales for October were 3 per cent larger than in the corresponding month a year ago, according to reports from 523 stores in 229 cities. For the first 10 months of 1929 sales were 3 per cent larger than for the same period last year. Inventories of the reporting department stores at the end of October were at about the same level as a year ago, according to reports from 433 stores.

Canned Milk Markets

The condensed and evaporated milk markets showed little marked changes during October and continue easy, according to the U. S. Market News Service. Prices are practically at the same level as reported for September, with supplies more than ample to meet current requirements and buyers showing little tendency to stock against future needs. Regardless of the liberal supplies, however, there was apparently no aggressive effort made to stimulate trading activities through the offer of concessions, although in some cases buyers were able to make their purchases on very favorable terms. Owners are reported as being of the opinion that there is no profit at present prices, and they are holding on in the hope that the situation will improve somewhat during the next few months.

The statistical position of the market showed practically no improvement during October. Total stocks of condensed and evaporated milk on hand November 1 amounted to 300,306,687 pounds as compared to 203,605,236 pounds on the same date last year, and a five-year average of 200,168,483 pounds, showing an excess of approximately 100,000,000 pounds over both last year's November 1 reserves and the five-year average November 1 reserves. Reduction in stocks during October were not as great as the heavy accumulations and favorable prices would seem to warrant, amounting to around 10,000,000 pounds as compared with a reduction of 8,000,000 pounds in October, 1928, when stocks were considerably lower and prices higher. The five-year average reduction in stocks during October is approximately 22,000,000 pounds.

Some of the failure of stocks to decline more than reported may be attributed to the heavy October production of both condensed and evaporated goods. The production of condensed and evaporated milk during October this year was about $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent greater than for October a year ago, with the largest share of the increase being registered in condensed goods.

Car Loadings

	Total	Miscellaneous	Merchandise L. C. L.	Other
Week ended November 16	983,323	371,463	359,492	352,268
Preceding week	1,049,475	401,899	367,853	380,523
Corresponding week, 1928	1,056,120	395,982	390,399	369,739
Corresponding week, 1927	968,032	359,248	280,005	348,779

Weight Requirements in Army Canned Food Purchases

The Military Services of the United States Government in calling for bids on canned foods, usually specify the weights which the cans shall contain. They are accustomed to rejecting shipments which do not comply with these weights. Moreover, they do not recognize a greater weight than is declared on the label.

A rejection was recently made, for instance, of a shipment of No. 10 canned peas which complied with the specifications of the Army in containing 6 pounds, 10 ounce total net content per can. The label, however, declared the presence of only 6 pounds, 4 ounces. When the goods arrived and the declaration on the label was noted, the Department refused to accept the consignment.

It is important that canners bear this requirement in mind in filling orders received from any of the Military Services.

Government Seizes Canned Tomatoes

On the ground that the product had been adulterated with water at the time of canning, Federal officers have seized 5,614 cases of canned tomatoes located at various points in Alabama and at Baltimore and at Washington, D. C. Seizure was made as a result of investigation by the Food, Drug, and Insecticide Administration of the Department of Agriculture under the Federal Food and Drugs Act. These tomatoes, 24 cans to the case, were packed in, and shipped from, factories in northern Virginia last summer and fall.

Reputable canners, says the Department, do not consider it necessary to add water to tomatoes in the canning process, and they as well as the Government regard the sale of water at the price of canned tomatoes as a cheat and imposition on the consumer.

These seized tomatoes are being held pending action on the part of the canners. Distribution of them in trade will be permitted only under conditions which will prevent fraud and deception.

Prune Industry in Yugoslavia

A preliminary report on the prune industry in Yugoslavia, by Milton J. Newhouse, has been issued in mimeograph form by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The report is based on actual observations and on interviews with growers, packers, sales factors, bankers, agricultural agents and government officials in Yugoslavia by Mr. Newhouse in company with the agricultural commissioner at Berlin.

Postponement of Italian Marking Requirements for Canned Fish

By Royal Decree of October 3, 1929, the Italian Government has permitted fish which are not properly marked according to the regulations of July 7, 1927, to be handled and sold by stores until December 31, 1930, according to a report from the American assistant trade commissioner at Rome. This decree applies only to such fish products as had been brought in and stored in these establishments not later than June 30, 1929. It is understood that this action was taken because there is still held in retail stores in Italy a considerable quantity of fish products packed in containers which do not meet the requirements of this law. This extension will enable the fish already on hand to be disposed of.

Under the regulations above mentioned it is forbidden to import or sell fish products contained in boxes or other recep-

tacles when the following markings are not stamped or lithographed on the metal containers in an indelible way or burnt into wooden containers or stamped in relief on glass containers: Name of product contained therein; quality of oil or other substances used for conserving the product; net weight of product; name of producer; place of production.

Where the product was well known through a trade mark registered in Italy the last two requirements could be obviated.

More Data Sought on Resale Price Maintenance

A new schedule has recently been sent out by the Federal Trade Commission to individuals and companies concerned in the Committee's investigation of resale price maintenance. The Commission desires to make a comparison of the prices for price maintained and non-price maintained goods, and to compare the results of price cutting and price maintenance.

Chief Appointed For Quarantine Administration

Lee A. Strong, of California, has been appointed Chief of the Plant Quarantine and Control Administration of the Department of Agriculture, succeeding Dr. C. L. Marlatt, who has been filling the position of Chief of the Bureau of Entomology as well as Chief of the Plant Quarantine and Control Administration. Dr. Marlatt retires from the latter position in accordance with the plan authorized some two years ago.

Finely Ground Sulphur Required

Sulphur dust, to be really effective for use as a fungicide against plant disease, particularly apple scab, must be ground so fine that practically all of the particles are less than seventeen ten-thousandths of an inch in diameter, according to the state Experiment Station at Geneva, N. Y., which has been making a study of various sulphur dusts on the market with particular reference to the ability to adhere to the foliage of fruit trees. Fine dusts adhere to the leaves, while coarse dusts will not remain on the foliage at all, hence are worthless in combating disease infections.

Report on Alaska Fishery and Fur-Seal Industries

The Bureau of Fisheries has issued as Document 1064 a report on the Alaska fishery and fur-seal industries in 1928, which forms appendix VI to the Annual Report of the U. S. Commissioner of Fisheries for the fiscal year of 1929.